Acting Deputy for Security

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Security Control Staff

Use of Special Interrogation Techniques by Foreign Countries

H B-7 [redacted] was interviewed June 18, 1948 at Counter-Intelligence Corps Center, Baltimore, Maryland. He was able to contribute valuable bits of information concerning the use of special interrogation techniques by foreign countries.

[redacted]

H B-7

[redacted]

This desk handled any case involving activity other than that instigated by the Germans themselves. This desk handled all Communist inspired activities. [redacted] received much of his information H-B-6 on German interrogation techniques from [redacted], a German citizen and former 1st Lieutenant in the German Intelligence Service. [redacted] was H-B-7 stationed at [redacted], in charge of the interrogation of American airmen. He was interrogated by [redacted] periodically for a three-month period. H-B-7 This interrogation report is located at Frankfort.

H B-7 [redacted] knew of no instances where a lie detector was utilized as a part of interrogation technique by the British, Germans, French or Russians.

[redacted]

Scientific pressure methods, according to [redacted], were used most skillfully by the French. This use was on a highly scientific and psychological plane and was utilized to best avail by SLAM of the French Military Services. The French played on the emotions a great deal and used such methods as the false accusation of serious offenses, implicated threats as to the consequences, fear of the acquiring of diseases of both a physical and mental nature, etc. [redacted] placed the Germans second as to efficient use of the pressure methods. The German technique was not on as high a psychological plane but involved the use of threats and promises, such as the promotion or the ruination of a man's business, infliction of harm to family and relatives, etc. [redacted] considered the British third in effectiveness. The British utilized a combination of some of the French and German methods and were extremely good at the art of trickery. [redacted] considers the Russians last in the application of skillful pressure methods. During his assignment in charge of external affairs, [redacted] had an excellent opportunity to interrogate many individuals subjected to Russian interrogation techniques. He found that the Russians made use of very crude torture mechanisms in their interrogations. This procedure was utilized even by top flight Russian interrogation teams. Many primitive torture methods were used, such as making the person stand in cold water during winter time for many hours or stand in a small cell in which he could not be seated, whipping, pinching of fingers, etc. [redacted] found no evidence of the use of refined psychological duress among Russian interrogators.

According to information available to [redacted] the United States-Britain combined operation utilized the use of drugs to a greater extent than other countries. The use of sodium amytal was considered only in top echelon cases. This use was strictly unauthorized and no account of it was made in writing. [redacted] has personally been associated with 12 interrogations where sodium amytal was used. He is acquainted with approximately 35 to 40 other instances where this procedure was utilized. Of the 12 cases concerning which he had first hand information there was considerable success. Complete information was acquired in approximately 40% of the interrogations, partial success was attained in approximately 40% of the interrogations, and approximately 20% of the interrogations were concluded with very little success. The injection of sodium amytal was made at night, the interrogation was then conducted, and the interrogatee was sent to bed for the remainder of the night in order that he might sleep off the effects of the drug. The use of the drug was camouflaged as much as possible. One technique used was to line up 15 or 20 people for shots and among this group have the subject for the interrogation. All of the individuals except the one to be interrogated were injected with distilled water. The subject for interrogation was given the sodium amytal. Exact extent to which the Germans utilized drugs and interrogation is not known. There were prevalent rumors that they did utilize this method, but the only reliable information that could be obtained by [redacted] was that they were extremely interested in it and conducted experiments in that field. [redacted] states that although first hand information is not available concerning French activities with the use of drugs, it was

[redacted]

reliably known that the French were interested in this technique. It was strongly rumored that the Russians utilized drugs for theppurpose of interrogation, but these rumors could not be successfully substantiated. The Germans say that the Russians have used this technique on them. [redacted] did uncover reliable information concerning Russian use of drugs to cause discomfort, pain and nausea for purposes of extracting information in interrogations. These drugs were administered both orally and by use of hypodermic needle.

According to [redacted] the French admit interest in the utilization of hypnosis in interrogations. There were many rumors present in interrogation circles concerning the actual use of this technique by the French on the Russians. These rumors could not be substantiated. From information obtained [redacted] considered it possible that the British might have utilized this technique at their Combined Staff District Interrogation Center. [redacted] acquired information concerning German experimentation in this field but did not know of its use at German interrogation centers. [redacted] has no first hand information concerning the Russian use of hypnosis in their interrogations.

Much of this information is considered reliable because of [redacted]'s opportunity to observe and learn of foreign interrogation techniques. Information obtained in this interview substantiates our suspicion of the presence of great interest among several foreign countries in the application of special interrogation techniques.

SIGNED

A [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]